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From: Steve Ellis [mailto:steven.ellis@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2009 9:49 AM
To: 'michael.mainville@afp.com'
Subject: Statement from President Bagapsh on Venezuela's Recognition of Abkhazia

Michaël,

Please see the attached statement from President Bagapsh. Will send to Elise and Amelie as well.

Thanks,

Steve

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**STATEMENT BY SERGEI BAGAPSH, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ABKHAZIA
ON THE RECOGNITION OF ABKHAZIA BY VENEZUELA**

The Government of the Republic of Abkhazia is honored to be recognized as an independent state by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The Abkhazian people thank Venezuela for its confidence in our future. This recognition will help to solidify our nation's long-term success. We look forward to an array of political, economic, and cultural programs that will produce mutual benefits for the citizens of both nations.

The Abkhazian people encourage other governments around the world to follow the example of the Russia, Nicaragua, and Venezuela and recognize our right to be responsible and productive members of the international community. We will receive any such recognition with gratitude and respect.

-- Sergei Bagapsh, President, Republic of Abkhazia

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